Behaviour Management Policy

An important outcome of a quality preschool program is that children develop as happy, responsible and confident individuals learning to work together Cooperatively as members of a group. To be able to develop these skills, children need to learn that within society there are behaviours that are acceptable and behaviours that are not acceptable.

We believe
- All children are individuals and the strategies used for guiding behaviour reflect this.
- Everybody has the opportunity to express their feelings.
- Children learn best when they experience success and have positive self esteem.
- Staff and parents share the responsibility for modelling appropriate behaviours.
- We consider that children learn through a positive, safe secure setting that encourages and values play and is free from harassment.
- Families and educators need to work together to develop consistent expectations.
- Behaviour expectations need to be explicit and take into account children’s background, age, culture and stage of development.

Behaviours we encourage
We believe that social skills are of vital importance to children’s development and need to be explicitly taught using appropriate body language, tone of voice, facial expressions and language.
- Respecting and caring for materials and equipment
- Respecting and accepting others and helping each other
- Positive interactions
- Being cooperative
- Sharing and turn taking
- Listening behaviour (eg giving eye contact)
- Being polite
- Valuing people’s opinions
- Participating in activities
- Using appropriate social language and actions
- Safe play
- Development of problem solving skills
- Recognition of the natural and logical consequences of behaviour

Behaviours which are unacceptable or inappropriate include,

**Refusal to follow directions /disruptive behaviours**

**Physical behaviours causing distress to another individual**
* Hitting
* Pushing
* Punching
* Kicking
* Throwing objects
* Breaking objects
* Biting
* Spitting
* Damage to equipment
* Snatching

**Acts which cause emotional distress to another individual**
* Putting other children down
* Verbal abuse
* Threats
* Yelling and screaming (directed at an individual)
* Bullying
* Racial Taunts
Dealing with unacceptable behaviour

When dealing with unacceptable behaviours it is important to remember that

* All children are individuals and will have different levels of understanding and experience of ‘the rules’. Different expectations need to be made of a child who is new to the preschool from those of a child who is familiar with the setting.
* Some children who have learning difficulties /delays or disorders may have greater difficulty in coping with frustration and in learning to behave acceptably: and in understanding the rules and the reasons for them.
* Staff and parents need to work together and share the responsibility for encouraging and modelling appropriate behaviours in a variety of situations.
* All staff must be consistent in their approach to each individual child.
* Staff and parents must work together to provide a safe environment for all children.
*At times children do feel angry, frustrated and upset and need help to express their feelings appropriately. ( We use the language of the Emotional rooms ).
*Children learn best when they experience success in a positive way– it is better to acknowledge and encourage the behaviour that is acceptable than to focus on the negative.
*Children should be involved in regular discussions about ‘the rules’ and helped to understand why we need them.
*Staff and parents need to be explicit about expectations for behaviour in various situations and about the consequences of behaviour.

When unacceptable behaviour occurs generally the staff will:

use the language of the emotional rooms to

* redirect the child towards acceptable, constructive activities/experiences and provide encouragement, support and/or praise.
* Talk with the child about the incident and the reason for it occurring, then ask what they could have done that was appropriate, and restate what will they do next time? Ensure the child talks to the people involved and explain verbally how they felt and what instigated their behaviour. Make amends to the ‘victims’ if necessary.

Or

* ignore the behaviour if it is being done only to seek attention, as long as it is not unsafe.

With this policy statement staff want to ensure that our preschool is a place where children feel safe, secure and respected. A place where children, staff and parents work together to maximise children’s learning potential. A place which is fun and exciting and allows children to enjoy themselves, take risks and learn through play.

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